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Contacts: Lori Getter, Wisconsin Emergency Management, 608-242-3239
Ethnie Groves, Office of the Governor, 608-261-2156

Governor Doyle: Disaster Aid Available for Victims of Early Spring Storms and Flooding

FEMA Moves Incident Period Back from May 19 to May 7; People with Storm Damage in Early May Can Now Apply for Assistance

Governor Jim Doyle announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has agreed to reopen this summer's disaster period, allowing many Wisconsin residents who suffered from storm and flood damage in early May to apply for federal disaster aid. Governor Doyle first applied for this additional assistance in July, and over the past three months, the Doyle Administration has repeatedly asked FEMA to approve the request. The Administration just received word that FEMA has finally approved the request.

"This aid is a long time coming for Wisconsin residents and businesses that were affected by heavy storms in early May," Governor Doyle said. "More than 7,000 people in Wisconsin requested federal disaster aid this summer following the record rainfall, flooding, and tornadoes. We know that there were others who suffered as well, early in the spring, but were not eligible for federal assistance. By moving the incident period back from May 19 to May 7, those who experienced losses as a result of the spring storms may be eligible to receive help."

Residents and businesses in the eligible counties that suffered storm damage from May 7-18, 2004 are now encouraged to register with FEMA to determine if they may be eligible for federal grants and low interest loans. Those who experienced damage from May 7-18, 2004 should register with FEMA by calling the toll-free number, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Those with a speech or hearing impairment can call a special number, TTY 1-800-462-7585. Both lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice.

The original disaster declaration was for storm damage that occurred from May 19-July 3, 2004. In July, Governor Doyle requested the official disaster incident period be reopened to include storms that occurred in early May.

The revised declaration that will allow Individual Assistance to aid homeowners, renters, and business owners is available in the following counties: Adams, Brown, Calumet, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Marathon, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, and Wood.

- MORE -

Tuesday, October 12, 2004

Page 2 of 2

Disaster relief is also available to local governments in Adams, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green Lake, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Marquette, Monroe, Ozaukee, Vernon, and Winnebago Counties to help reimburse disaster related costs that occurred from May 7-18, 2004. Local governments in the approved counties should contact their county emergency management director for further information on how to apply for this assistance.